AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A printer adapted to be connected to a host computer and to receive data including control commands from the host computer, comprising:

a receive buffer for temporarily storing received data;

a data interpreter for interpreting the data in said receive buffer;

control means responsive to said data interpreter for controlling the printer;

state detection means for detecting whether the printer is in a first state in which data is received and the received data is not printed, or in a second state in which data is received and the received data is printed;

clearing means for clearing the receive buffer,

characterized in that said clearing means is effective for automatically clearing said receive buffer immediately after said state detection means detecting said first state without need of a real-time buffer clearing command from said computer; and

a data discarding means for discarding print data and not discarding command data received from said host computer while said printer is in said first state.

2.   (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 1, further comprising:

setting means for setting a data handling mode that determines how data are handled when said printer is in said first state; and

reading means for reading said data handling mode in response to said printer entering said first state, as determined by said state detection means;

wherein said clearing means is adapted to clear said receive buffer only when said data handling mode is set to allow clearing of said receive buffer.

3.   (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 2, wherein said setting means is adapted to set said data handling mode in response to a specific control command from said host computer.

Please enter. AV 7/10/07